

REMARKS

Summary of Claim Status

Claims 1, 4-14, and 16-20 are pending in the present application after entry of the present amendment. Applicant has cancelled Claims 2-3 and 15 as being redundant with newly amended Claims 1 and 10, respectively. Claims 1-20 are rejected.

Applicant requests the favorable reconsideration of the claims and withdrawal of the pending rejections and objections, in view of the present amendment and in light of the following remarks.

Rejections for Double-Patenting

Claims 1-20 are rejected under the doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over U.S. Patent No. 6,714,040. In response, Applicant has enclosed herewith a terminal disclaimer for the present invention with respect to the cited patent.

Rejections Under 35 USC §103(a)

Claims 1-2, 4-5, 9-11, 13, and 16 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nishihara et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,336,209, hereinafter "Nishihara") in view of Tang (U.S. Patent No. 5,635,855).

Applicant has amended Claim 1 to include the limitations of Claim 3 (and intervening Claim 2). Claim 3 is apparently acknowledged to be allowable after overcoming the double-patenting rejection. Thus, incorporating the limitations of Claim 3 into Claim 1 overcomes the rejection of Claim 1. Claims 2 and 3 are cancelled as being redundant with amended Claim 1. Claims 4-9 are allowable for at least the reasons of Claim 1, from which they depend.

Applicant has amended Claim 10 to include the limitations of Claim 15. Claim 15 is apparently acknowledged to be allowable after overcoming the double-patenting rejection. Thus, incorporating the limitations of Claim 15 into Claim 10 overcomes the rejection of Claim 10. Claim 15 is cancelled as being redundant with amended Claim

10. Claims 11-14 and 16 are allowable for at least the reasons of Claim 10, from which they depend.

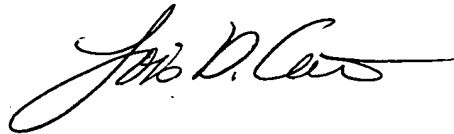
Allowable Claims

Applicants respectfully take note that Claims 17-20 are apparently acknowledged to be allowable after overcoming the double-patenting rejection.

Conclusion

No new matter has been introduced by any of the above amendments. All claims should be now be in condition for allowance and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. If any action other than allowance is contemplated by the Examiner, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone Applicants' agent, Lois D. Cartier, at 720-652-3733.

Respectfully submitted,



Lois D. Cartier
Agent for Applicants
Reg. No. 40,941

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as **first class mail** in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on September 27, 2005

PAT SLABACK
Name

Pat Slaback
Signature